10/25/72

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...BJCCING)

WASHINGTON--THE WHITE HOUSE DENIED TODAY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE EVER MAINTAINED A SECRET FUND TO FINANCE POLITICAL ESPIONAGE OR THAT NIXON'S CHIEF OF STAFF, H. R. H...

...AN, WAS EVER QUESTIONED BY THE FBI ABOUT POLITICAL SPYING OR SABOTAGE.

PRESS SECRETARY RONALD L. ZIEGLER ATTACKED THE WASHINGTON POST WHICH REPORTED IN TODAY'S EDITIONS THAT TESTIMONY GIVEN TO A FEDERAL GRAND JURY SAID HALDEMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO APPROVE PAYMENTS FROM A SECRET CASH FUND CREATED FOR POLITICAL SECURITY OPERATIONS.

ZIEGLER SAID HALDEMAN NEVER 'HAD ACCESS TO FUND AS REPORTED IN THE POST,' AND THAT HALDEMAN HAD NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED BY THE FBI, AS THE POST ALSO REPORTED.

AND HE ADDED, 'I'M TOLD THAT THERE IS NO SUCH SECRET FUND.'

ZIEGLER DESCRIBED THE POST REPORT AS ZSHODDY AND SHA...

ZIEGLER DESCRIBED THE POST REPORT AS "SHODDY AND SLOPPY JOURNALISM."

"THIS IS A POLITICAL EFFORT BY THE WASHINGTON POST, WELL CONCEIVED AND COORDINATED, TO DISCREDIT INDIVIDUALS IN THIS ADMINISTRATION," THE PRESIDENT'S SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE POST SAID HUGH W. SLOAN JR., FORMER TREASURER OF NIXON'S RE-ELECTION ORGANIZATION, HAD TOLD THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATING THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN THAT HALDEMAN AND FOUR OTHER PRESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATES HAD ACCESS TO A SECRET CAMPAIGN FUND.

ZIEGLER QUOTED SLOAN'S ATTORNEY AS SAYING SLOAN HAD GIVEN NO SUCH TESTIMONY.

THE POST REPORT TRIGGERED A FRESH ATTACK BY DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE GEORGE S. MCGOVERN ON NIXON AND HIS RE-ELECTION EFFORT.

MCGOVERN SAID IN A PREPARED SPEECH IN CLEVELAND, "WE HAVE LEARNED TODAY THAT THE CHAIN OF SCANDAL AND CORRUPTION LEADS TO THE VERY HEART OF MR. NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE OPERATION.

"WHAT A SHOCKING REVELATION IT IS THAT MR. NIXON'S CLOSEST PERSONAL ADVISER, H. R. HALDEMAN, CONTROLLED THE REPUBLICAN FUND THAT WAS USED TO HIRE UNDERCOVER AGENTS, TO FORGE LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS, TO WIRETAP AND BUG AND TO BURGLARIZE THE PRIVATE OFFICES OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

"THIS PLACES THE WHOLE UGLY MESS OF CORRUPTION, ESPIONAGE AND SABOTAGE SQUARELY IN THE LAP OF RICHARD NIXON."

ZIEGLER DESCRIBED THE POST STORY AS ONE BASED ON "HEARSAY AND INNUENDO." HE SAID ANONYMOUS SOURCES FOR THE POST REPORT "DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT" IN REFERRING TO GRAND JURY TESTIMONY.

10/25--CE1136P